United Nations E/2016/49

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 April 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 14
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

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16-06321 (E) 040516

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2015/16, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 70/96, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In paragraph 21 of the resolution, the Assembly commended the Council for its debate and its resolution on the question and requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to those Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information received, during the period under review, the following six organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

5. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides support for sustainable development policies and practices in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security. FAO assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories is facilitated by its field offices, including the subregional office for the Caribbean located in Barbados and the subregional office for the Pacific islands located in Samoa.

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

6. The office in Barbados hosts the secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission. The Commission was established in 1973, with 34 member States, including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Non-Self-Governing Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands take part at various levels in the technical and scientific advisory activities of the Commission. The level of their participation in its working groups on queen conch, spiny lobster, spawning aggregations and recreational fisheries is particularly high. As such, those Territories benefit from capacity-building, awareness-raising, technical assistance and information dissemination by FAO, using resources mobilized by the Commission secretariat from the members and donors.

7. In recent years, the Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda and Montserrat have participated in the sessions of the secretariat of the Commission, where recommendations on regional fisheries management and conservation are reviewed and adopted for voluntary implementation by the member States and the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the wider Caribbean region/western central Atlantic. Montserrat took part in an FAO/Commission workshop on implementing the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the fifteenth session of the Commission, both held in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2014. Bermuda took part in the first meeting of the Working Group on the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries, held in Barbados in September 2014. Anguilla took part in a workshop on the stock assessment and management of the Caribbean spiny lobster in the western central Atlantic, held in Panama in October 2014. The Turks and Caicos Islands took part in the second meeting of the Working Group on Queen Conch (organized by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, the Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism), held in Panama in November 2014. Montserrat and Bermuda took part in a workshop on marine protected areas as a tool for responsible fisheries and sustainable livelihoods in the Caribbean, held in Barbados in November 2014.

8. Tokelau joined FAO as an associate member in 2011 and has received technical assistance focusing on the sustainable management of natural resources and food security. Continuing technical assistance focuses on strategies and capacity-building to address the impact of climate change on jurisdictional claims; the implementation of global and regional oceanic fisheries conventions and related instruments; the development of land-use plans; and coastal replanting.

9. Tokelau takes part in an FAO project, run jointly with the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility, on the implementation of global and regional oceanic fisheries conventions and related instruments in Pacific small island developing States, founded on national capacity-building and on leveraging ideas centred on sustainability and the application of precautionary, ecosystem-based approaches to the well-established regional fisheries policy dialogue structures and research networks. The project is supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of the secretariat of the Pacific Community.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

10. United Nations assistance to refugees from Western Sahara is a key component of a multi-donor, multifaceted humanitarian relief effort. Saharan refugees face very severe living conditions and are wholly dependent on humanitarian assistance. In 2015, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) support programme in five refugee camps revolved around two main axes: mother and child health care and education. UNICEF remained the primary vaccine provider for Saharan children, allowing full immunization coverage for all children under 5 years of age and pregnant women. Safe motherhood and delivery were targeted by a comprehensive training package, including both theoretical and on-site training sessions for professional and traditional midwives, coupled with the procurement of essential drugs and equipment for maternity services in health centres and hospitals. UNICEF provided school supplies to 32,000 primary school children and 7,000 preschool-age children. It further supported education initiatives in developing and testing an education information management system to improve the distribution of supplies and overall planning of education.

11. Following floods in October 2015, which severely affected access to basic services for children and women, UNICEF, in coordination with Saharan representatives, United Nations partner agencies and non-governmental organizations, promptly responded by chartering a planeload of 50 tons of emergency supplies, including tents, school supplies and emergency health kits. Within three weeks of the disaster occurring, 6,500 children had resumed schooling using the temporary learning spaces set up and equipped by UNICEF and primary health service had been restored for more than 30,000 people. As part of the recovery plan, UNICEF also engaged in the rehabilitation of some of the most damaged educational and health infrastructure and a centre for children with disabilities.

12. The UNICEF emergency response to date has been supported by contributions from the Governments of Italy and the United States of America, which have complemented its own emergency funds and those received from the Central Emergency Response Fund of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The floods severely affected the overall living conditions of the Saharan refugee population, at times nullifying the achievements from previous efforts. That is especially the case regarding health and education infrastructure. Although the unforeseen natural disaster has brought new attention to the plight of Saharan refugees, once the initial momentum fades away, donor fatigue and diminishing humanitarian budgets are likely to continue to pose a major challenge in providing humanitarian assistance.

13. In 2015, the UNICEF Eastern Caribbean office undertook a multi-country programme action plan with the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region to support children's rights by fostering a protective environment. Those programmes are designed to take into account the socioeconomic situation of the Territories, as well as their status as small islands.

14. UNICEF programmes are fully aligned with existing policy frameworks in the Territories and in regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. In 2015, the United Kingdom Department for International Development worked closely with UNICEF and the

Governments of Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the areas of evidence-based advocacy and capacity-building in preparing State reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the preparation of a situation analysis on critical children's rights issues, including improvement in data collection; support for the development of an education framework to address early childhood development; and the production of a manual for child- and gender-responsive budgeting to assist with understanding of the fundamental principles, practices and methodologies for promoting gender equality and child rights, accountability for the rights of women, men, girls and boys and efficiency and transparency in the policy budget framework.

15. UNICEF has been engaged in advocating child-friendly schools, for which it has received endorsement from the highest political levels. The framework has helped some 10 countries and Territories to implement a protective and inclusive school environment. Notable achievements include a high proportion of schools providing health and family life education at both the primary and secondary levels. Other activities have included UNICEF support for building capacity and training teachers on national protocols for prevention, reporting, investigation and management of child abuse and neglect, and on community-focused awareness-raising programmes. UNICEF has supported the development of public awareness materials relating to sexual abuse and corporal punishment, training on child safeguarding/child abuse and coaching teachers, parents and religious leaders. All that technical assistance will be used to guide and monitor children's rights in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

16. The UNICEF Pacific office, based in Fiji, covers 14 Pacific island countries and Territories, including Tokelau. Its overall goal is to work with partners to provide better outcomes for Pacific children and women, as reflected in improved policies and legislation, greater access to high-quality social services and more accurate data for planning and monitoring. The multi-country programme includes early childhood development, education, health, including HIV and AIDS, nutrition, water and sanitation, child protection, rights advocacy and behaviour change communication, as well as collection and analysis of data relating to children and women. UNICEF facilitates the participation of Tokelau in Pacific regional meetings relating to those programme areas.

17. UNICEF works closely with many partners, including Governments (for example, those of Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States), Pacific organizations and a network of non-governmental organizations, to support rights-based and evidence-informed development programming and monitoring in all Pacific island countries and Territories.

18. UNICEF supports the Expanded Programme on Immunization for all Pacific island countries and Territories. It is the co-secretariat of the Pacific immunization programme, which brings together key partners to review immunization outcomes and progress. During the reporting period, UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Australian Aid, New Zealand Aid and the secretariat of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Specifically, UNICEF provided technical assistance for the introduction of the inactivated polio vaccine and the oral polio vaccine. UNICEF continues to work with the secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other Pacific partners to

support a framework that facilitates adequate prevention measures and care for those living with HIV and AIDS in the context of a low-prevalence environment. Promoting sexual and reproductive rights and reducing the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, adolescent pregnancy, gender-based violence and sexual assault, including among vulnerable populations, are at the heart of the comprehensive Pacific Sexual Health and Well-being Shared Agenda (2015-2019), which was endorsed by health ministers from all 22 Pacific island countries and Territories in July 2014, including American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau.

19. As part of UNICEF efforts to increase country capacity to collect, analyse and use information on the situation of children and women, a full situation analysis of children in the Pacific is under way, as is an update of the United Nations common country assessment for Tokelau, which will provide a framework for the next cycle of cooperation with the United Nations for the period 2018-2022.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

20. Five Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of associate members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), namely Anguilla (2013), the British Virgin Islands (1983), the Cayman Islands (1999), Montserrat (2015) and Tokelau (2001). UNESCO employs every opportunity to engage with Territories through platforms of action, information and cooperation, or capacity-building activities organized at the regional, subregional and national levels.

21. To address the lack of good-quality education statistics in the Pacific, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the secretariat of the Pacific Community jointly organized a regional workshop on education data and indicators, with a focus on the International Standard Classification of Education 2011, in New Caledonia in February 2014. Fifteen Pacific island countries and Territories, including Tokelau, took part.

22. UNESCO assisted Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat in capacity-building for officials of their respective ministries of education regarding the monitoring and evaluation of education sector plans and policy priorities, and in designing and implementing technical and vocational education and training and skills development. The capacity of the ministries was also strengthened through planning for disaster risk reduction in the education sector.

23. Training in quality assurance in higher education was organized in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

24. A small number of World Heritage properties are located in Non-Self-Governing Territories: in Bermuda, the historic town of St George and related fortifications (cultural property, United Kingdom, inscribed in 2000); in New Caledonia, the lagoons of New Caledonia, their reef diversity and associated ecosystems (natural property, France, inscribed in 2008); Henderson Island, Pitcairn (natural property, Pitcairn, United Kingdom, inscribed in 1988).

25. Whereas nomination files have to be submitted by those States parties that have ratified the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and

Natural Heritage, the local authorities of those Territories are usually involved in the preparation of the files and the day-to-day management of the properties.

26. The lagoons of New Caledonia were selected as a World Heritage property good practice case study for the involvement of local communities in the management of such properties in the publication *World Heritage in Europe Today* (available from http://whc.unesco org/en/eur-na/), published in February 2016.

27. There are also a number of sites located in Non-Self-Governing Territories that are inscribed on the tentative lists of States parties for nomination to World Heritage status: in Gibraltar, Gorham's cave complex (cultural property, United Kingdom, added in 2012); Saint Helena (natural property, United Kingdom, added in 2012); the Turks and Caicos Islands (natural property, United Kingdom, added in 2012); on American Samoa, the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (natural property, United States, added in 2008); in French Polynesia, the sacred site of Tapu-tapu-ātea/Te Pō, valley of Ō-po-ā (cultural property, France, added in 2010).

28. Non-Self-Governing Territories participate in World Heritage Committee sessions and may make statements as part of the State party delegation, as participants from New Caledonia did at the thirty-second session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Quebec in 2008. For the Caribbean, all the Territories are invited to international and periodic reporting meetings organized with UNESCO, irrespective of their status.

29. Experts from Non-Self-Governing Territories regularly attend events and meetings relating to World Heritage issues. For example, three experts from New Caledonia took part in a Pacific World Heritage workshop (Apia, September 2011); representatives of Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands attended a meeting on the theme of "Capacity-building on heritage conservation in the Caribbean small island developing States", held in Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, from 8 to 13 May 2014; and two representatives of the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands took part in a Caribbean training course on the preparation of nomination dossiers for World Heritage status (Kingston, June 2012) and in a follow-up training workshop organized in Antigua in March 2013.

30. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific World Heritage project organized a workshop on marine biodiversity and climate change awareness among youth, held in Touho, New Caledonia, from 7 to 13 April 2014 in cooperation with the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Nouvelle Calédonie, which has been playing a central role in the management of the lagoons of New Caledonia. Some 15 international and 10 local young persons took part in the youth action camp to share youth-led initiatives in marine biodiversity and climate change adaptation in their respective countries and learn about some of the international frameworks, such as the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

31. A representative of New Caledonia attended a workshop on efforts to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural property in Melanesia, held in Port Vila from 5 to 7 August 2015 and convened by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Vanuatu. It brought together representatives of five Melanesian countries and Territories, along with representatives of UNESCO, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Pacific Islands Museums Association, the Oceania Customs Organization secretariat, the Pacific Heritage Hub at the University of the South Pacific, the

secretariat of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and participants from Australia and New Zealand. The participants discussed the related challenges facing the Pacific small island developing States, including ocean border control, the communal ownership of cultural heritage, cultural infrastructure development, resource constraints and the lack of awareness of cultural property laws among visitors and the expatriate community.

32. Several Non-Self-Governing Territories hold important underwater cultural heritage sites and/or are profiting from their valorization. Bermuda plans to establish an international shipwreck exploration industry to generate revenue; the Cayman Islands is working towards research into and protection of submerged sites and their touristic valorization; in the waters of Guam, submerged cultural heritage from every period of colonial occupation is known to be present, including shipwrecks from the Spanish colonial period, some of which have recently been commercially exploited; New Caledonia boasts many submerged ships (more than 300 large vessels are known to have been lost in its waters); Pitcairn is best known for the story of the *Bounty*, famously associated with one of the most notorious mutinies in British history, meaning that the wreck of the *Bounty* and mutineer village sites on land are culturally significant for the population; and underwater cultural heritage sites in Tokelau provide testimony to the contacts made by Tokelau with surrounding countries.

33. Representatives of the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands attended a UNESCO regional capacity-building programme on the safeguarding of the underwater cultural heritage of the Caribbean, held in Port Royal, Jamaica, in November 2012.

34. UNESCO has been working for some years on the development of a cultural policy for Tokelau. This has progressed very slowly. To date, a scoping paper on how the policy could be developed has been prepared and an in-country consultation held. Furthermore, UNESCO is supporting a report on the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage in Tokelau that will contribute further to the national policy, if Tokelau decides to take it forward, as well as helping to identify intangible cultural heritage at risk.

35. UNESCO provided support to the Cayman Islands in the development of its first national cultural policy (2015-2016).

36. UNESCO provided assistance to the first festival of Oceania tapa, held in Tahiti, French Polynesia, from 13 to 23 November 2014 in the framework of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The festival brought together more than 100 tapa makers, government officials, academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations involved in the safeguarding and revitalization of tapa. The festival consisted of a symposium, a demonstration workshop and exhibitions. It provided an opportunity to highlight the unifying dimension of the unique intangible cultural heritage shared among islands in the Pacific and discuss how to strengthen its safeguarding through regional and international cooperation.

37. An expert from the Department of Culture, Citizenship and the Status of Women of New Caledonia took part in a workshop on the theme of intangible cultural heritage implementation, organized by the International Training Centre for

Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO in Beijing in December 2012.

38. Because of its proximity to three of the islands in the project and a direct relationship to their intangible cultural heritage, in 2015 Anguilla took part in a project on strengthening the capacities of Suriname and the Caribbean islands of the Netherlands to implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

39. Through a series of workshops in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, UNESCO has been working with educators and trainers to enable them to develop hands-on programmes on education for sustainable development, with the proactive approach of "measure, analyse, share and take action" of the UNESCO "Sandwatch" global climate change education and coastal monitoring programme, which is focused on small island developing States.

40. For the Pacific region, a workshop on climate change education inside and outside the classroom was held in Poindimié, New Caledonia, from 27 to 30 October 2014, with the support of the North Province of New Caledonia. The course combined lessons from the teachers' course on climate change education for sustainable development and Sandwatch. The 28 participants came mainly from small island developing States in the Pacific and from New Caledonia, and included primary, secondary and tertiary level teachers, school principals, teacher trainers, educators and curriculum developers from ministries of education, and community educators from non-governmental organizations.

41. In addition, schools and community groups in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, New Caledonia, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands continue to implement locally the methodology of a science education scheme through sustainable coastal monitoring, through which pupils, teachers and local communities work together in the field to monitor their beach environments, identify and evaluate the threats, problems and conflicts facing them and develop appropriate sustainable approaches to address those issues.

42. The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme has led the first-ever global assessment of the current state of groundwater resources in small island developing States, which will provide the basis for the development of policies and procedures for the sound management of those resources. Nine Non-Self-Governing Territories (American Samoa, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Tokelau and the United States Virgin Islands) were assessed. The results revealed that groundwater was the only source of water supply for most of them and that population density appeared to be the main driver of water stress. Most of the islands were shown to be at risk of human-caused pollution of groundwater and of water scarcity. On the basis of that work and other activities within its groundwater and climate change programme, the Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change, under the auspices of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, is currently preparing a technical paper on the impact of climate change on groundwater resources on small island developing States (including the nine Territories listed above).

43. Within the framework of the activities of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, officials from French Polynesia took part in the following meetings:

(a) Third meeting of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System Working Group Task Team on Seismic Data-sharing in the South-west Pacific, held in May 2014 in Port Vila;

(b) International tsunami symposium held on 20 and 21 April 2015, in Honolulu, United States, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;

(c) Twenty-sixth session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, held from 21 to 24 April 2015 in Honolulu.

44. Officials from New Caledonia also took part in the above-mentioned and following meetings and events sponsored by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:

(a) Training on new enhanced tsunami forecast products, held in May 2014 under the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;

(b) Fourth meetings of the Working Group Task Team on Seismic Data-sharing in the South-west Pacific, held in November 2015 in Suva.

45. It is also planned that Tokelau will be assisted with strengthening its tsunami monitoring, warning and response capabilities by dedicated training of its key staff and by supporting the formalization of warning arrangements with the Government of Samoa. The support will also include the formulation of a tsunami plan and the development of standard operating procedures for warning and response.

46. American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Tokelau are all significant players in Pacific regional networks, such as the Pacific Youth Council and Pacific women's networks, of which there are several. Pitcairn is less well integrated into those networks, probably owing to its remoteness. The regional networks provide important opportunities for exchanging information and building capacity and should be fostered and strengthened.

47. UNESCO provides specific support to Tokelau as part of the cluster under its office in Apia. Past programmes have focused on youth (national youth policy and action plan) and gender equality (national women's policy and action plan).

48. UNESCO is organizing a Pacific youth policy workshop, to be held in June 2016 in Nadi, Fiji, in partnership with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Participants from American Samoa, French Polynesia and New Caledonia are expected.

49. On 23 and 24 September 2015, UNESCO organized its first-ever two-day conference and consultation on the ethical dimensions of the information society and Internet privacy for members (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and associate members (Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands) of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. At this major event, organized with the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in the framework of the UNESCO intergovernmental "Information for All" programme, current challenges relating to information ethics were examined, in particular those

facing small island developing States. A declaration was adopted, including strategic recommendations for shaping national and regional information and knowledge societies, programmes and policies, thereby enabling small island developing States to develop a range of proactive responses.

50. A representative of Montserrat took part in the General Assembly of the Caribbean Broadcasting Union, held in Grenada in August 2015. Freedom of expression, media self-regulation and media policy and funding were among the issues discussed.

51. A representative of the British Virgin Islands took part in the UNESCO "Memory of the World" training workshop for Latin America and Caribbean, which was held in Jamaica in August 2015. During the hands-on workshop, participants prepared their first nominations for the Memory of the World international register.

D. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

52. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) continues to provide technical expertise for gender-responsive policies in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

53. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, UN-Women, in cooperation with UNICEF, carried out training and developed a manual for the Government on strengthening its reporting procedures on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

54. In the British Virgin Islands, UN-Women extended its support for the 16-week court-mandated behavioural change programme for men brought before the courts for domestic violence. Although UN-Women no longer funds that initiative, it continues to provide backstopping upon request and, in 2015, dispatched an expert from Grenada to work with courts and court officers in assessing the current efficiency of the programme. In addition, the British Virgin Islands is establishing legislation on sexual offences. In Anguilla, UN-Women provided technical expertise to the process of drafting legislation on domestic violence, which was adopted in 2015.

55. As associate members of CARICOM, some Non-Self-Governing Territories from the Caribbean continued to engage in regional meetings within the framework of the normative processes of the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission on the Status of Women and the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the period 2013-2015. Those meetings were convened by CARICOM and funded by UN-Women.

E. World Food Programme

56. Since 1986, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been providing basic food assistance to Saharan refugees in five camps, located in south-western Algeria. The continuing protracted relief and recovery operation runs from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016, with a total budget of $92 million.

57. WFP provides 90,000 general food rations of up to nine food commodities (17 kg per person) on a monthly basis and 35,000 supplementary general food rations to the most vulnerable refugees living in the five camps, funding permitting. The nutritional value of the general food ration is equivalent to 2,166 kilocalories per person per day. Monthly needs are some 2,125 tons of mixed commodities, valued at $2.2 million.

58. WFP carries out three activities under its operation: general food distribution; mother and child health through nutrition activities; and a school-feeding programme. Those activities are implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Algeria, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Algerian Red Crescent, the Western Sahara Red Crescent, the International Committee for the Development of Peoples, Médicos del Mundo, Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía, the Spanish Red Cross and Oxfam.

59. Thanks to the general food distribution food basket, provided on a monthly basis by WFP, which includes cereals, pulses, oil, sugar and super cereals, 91 per cent of refugee households have an acceptable food consumption score, with a diversified diet. WFP is the main provider of commodities, accounting for 52 per cent of the food consumption score; the remainder is linked to fresh food supplied by partner non-governmental organizations (10 per cent), other bilateral support, purchases and intra/interfamily loans.

60. WFP is looking into increasing access to fresh foods for pregnant and lactating women in response to their increased kilocalorie needs. That activity is pending, awaiting funding availability. Should additional funding not become available, nutritional supplements (micronutrient powders, PlumpySup and Nutributter) will no longer be supplied, thus bringing to a halt an activity that has proved successful in addressing serious nutritional issues.

61. The planned local production of fortified biscuits for schoolchildren is on hold. In 2015, WFP provided a mid-morning snack, such as reconstituted milk, and locally produced bread, the latter for the last four months of the school year 2014/15.

62. Funding projections for 2016, which take into consideration confirmed and forecast contributions from regular donors, are dire, with just in excess of 50 per cent of needs covered.

63. Over the past years, support to humanitarian assistance for refugees from Western Sahara has drastically decreased, owing to the world economic slowdown and increased demands from other emergencies around the world. Furthermore, the drastic change in the United States dollar/euro exchange rate has had a negative impact on the WFP food pipeline.

64. In view of those critical funding prospects, WFP, in coordination with the Western Sahara Red Crescent, has taken steps that will make it possible to extend food availability with the reduced funding. That has resulted in a decreased variety of commodities in the food basket, something that is fundamental for long-term refugees, so that they have appropriate dietary diversity, and which primarily hurts the most vulnerable among them. WFP has stopped purchasing beans and chickpeas, according priority to less-costly lentils and yellow split peas. Beginning in January 2015, the food basket diversity has suffered from less rice and barley being included, replaced by less-costly wheat flour, and pulses have also been less

diversified. The food ration was reduced by up to 20 per cent between August and October, resulting in a kilocalorie intake of less than the recommended 2,100 per person per day.

65. While the composition of the dry-food basket has changed and the number of commodities in it has decreased from nine to six, the overall nutritional value of around 2,100 kilocalories per person per day is being maintained, with minimal alterations in the micronutrient intake, with the exception of the period from August to October 2015, when the nutritional value fell under that minimum requirement.

66. The devastating floods in the camps in October 2015 made it possible to obtain funding, which in turn made it possible to buck the trend of decreasing funding for a few months. However, funding remains insufficient to cover general food distribution requirements for 2016 and there are insufficient supplies of specialized commodities for nutritional activities and school feeding.

67. In 2016, WFP will be facing a shortfall of about $10 million for the current programme. That amount excludes the formulation of complementary activities, whose implementation is currently being assessed and which would require additional funding. A protracted funding deficit would have a severe impact on food security, given that refugees have limited coping strategies.

68. In the current unstable funding context, it is important to foster livelihoods to the extent possible in existing conditions. WFP and its partners will create a joint strategy to increase the resilience of the refugees and explore alternative transfer modalities (cash and vouchers). While in the long term that is expected to reduce the overall needs of humanitarian relief efforts, immediate start-up costs are significant.

F. World Health Organization

69. To bring its technical assistance closer to the Pacific countries and areas, WHO has established four representative offices in the Pacific, in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

70. Furthermore, the Division of Pacific Technical Support of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific was established in Suva in 2010, in order to better coordinate WHO assistance and collaboration with other health partners and respond to the specific needs of Pacific countries in a more timely manner.

71. The WHO Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy for the Pacific (2013-2017) has been developed through a consultative process with the Governments of the Pacific island countries and areas, including Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific. The strategy represents a medium-term vision for WHO technical cooperation in support of their national health policies, strategies and plans, while contributing to the WHO organization-wide plans.

72. WHO technical assistance reaches the Territories in the Pacific through the Division of Pacific Technical Support and WHO representative offices. That includes regular contact with counterparts in the Territories, focusing on support for their annual review and planning processes. Other areas of responsibility include ensuring that work is aligned to the plans of the Territories, developing WHO support plans for the Territories, on the basis of their health plans, and coordinating technical support to assist them.

73. In April 2015, WHO supported the eleventh meeting of Pacific Health Ministers, at which the participants reviewed the progress made and lessons learned in the past 20 years in achieving healthy islands and endorsed the 2015 Yanuca Island Declaration on health in Pacific island countries and Territories. At that meeting, American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau took an active part and signed the Declaration for future implementation.

74. WHO has provided technical support to Pacific island countries and areas, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, with a view to strengthening health systems and the quality of services.

75. American Samoa, French Polynesia and New Caledonia joined the WHO programme to eliminate lymphatic filariasis in the Pacific region. WHO and those Territories are also leveraging that work to make progress on controlling other neglected tropical diseases. WHO provided technical guidance for reassessing the endemicity status of filariasis in New Caledonia.

76. WHO is managing and coordinating the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System, the early warning epidemic alert system, in all Pacific island countries and Territories, including Pitcairn.

77. In American Samoa and Guam, WHO is working with the departments of health to roll out the Pacific open-learning health net, in order to provide continuing professional development opportunities to health professionals through e-learning.

78. In French Polynesia and New Caledonia, WHO, working with its partners, has also supported water safety planning. Drinking-water safety planning is considered one of the most effective means of ensuring the safety of the drinking-water supply from catchment to consumer. The work is aimed at strengthening collaboration and learning between Pacific countries and Territories in the technical and sustainability areas of safe drinking-water supply.

79. In addition to the above-mentioned technical programmes, WHO has provided technical support tailored to individual Territories, including American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau.

80. In American Samoa, WHO supported the Department of Health in initiating a programme on non-communicable diseases, more specifically on an adaptation of the WHO package of essential interventions on non-communicable diseases in low-resource settings. WHO also works with the territorial Government to develop demonstration sites for the programme on non-communicable diseases and to support the management of them with the participation of the local community.

81. In French Polynesia, WHO is providing continuing technical and human resource support for the Department of Health to investigate possible links between Zika virus infection and neurological abnormalities, and for the implementation of a school health survey, which focuses on non-communicable diseases and risky behaviour.

82. Representatives of New Caledonia took part in a workshop on tobacco control and working towards a tobacco-free Pacific by 2025. WHO offered technical advice regarding the taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages and technical guidance on the development of public health emergency contingency plans at the international point of entry during the first Pacific port-of-entry meeting held in Fiji in December 2015.

83. In Guam, WHO has provided technical support to the implementation of an action plan on salt reduction, including pledges from local caterers.

84. In Tokelau, WHO has provided technical and financial support to develop evidence of risk factors of non-communicable diseases through a stepwise survey and provides support for the development of a food security plan.

85. In the region of the Americas, the Pan American Health Organization/WHO provides technical cooperation through its offices in the Bahamas (serving the Turks and Caicos Islands), the eastern Caribbean (serving Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat) and Jamaica (serving Bermuda and the Cayman Islands).

86. WHO is currently working with Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands to develop a strategy document that identifies their common health priorities and could facilitate pooling and mobilization of resources, joint action and increased efficiency.

87. WHO has provided technical support tailored to individual Territories with regard to non-communicable disease programmes, nutrition, mental health and disaster risk reduction.

88. In Anguilla, WHO has focused on the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, child nutrition education, the development of a school health policy, food safety and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. It has provided training to address the core capacity requirements of the International Health Regulations.

89. In the British Virgin Islands, WHO is working on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, the improvement of health facilities to withstand disasters, surveillance, development of a health policy and action plan for older persons and vector control activities.

90. In Montserrat, WHO focuses on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and on child nutrition education and promotion, the development of a mental health policy and plan, vector control activities and the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors.

91. In Bermuda, WHO has supported the strengthening of the regulatory capacity with regard to medicines and health technology; health financing within the context of universal health coverage; the development of a framework to address hazard emergency and disaster risk management; and the strengthening, through the International Health Regulations, of the national preparedness for the introduction of diseases, such as Ebola virus disease. An action plan on maternal, infant and child nutrition has been developed.

92. In the Cayman Islands, WHO has supported the assessment of the core capacity requirements of the International Health Regulations and a plan of action for mental health and a national health policy and strategic plan have been developed. The protocol for the provision of services to victims of intimate partners and sexual violence has been reviewed and updated and capacity-building conducted to address all hazards, emergencies and disaster risk management.

93. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, WHO activities have focused on the development and current implementation of legislation consistent with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (passed into law in October 2015).

WHO has supported the strengthening of health services consistent with the strategy of moving towards universal health coverage, including the development and implementation of a renewed primary health care strategy, and the integration of previously vertical programmes into the primary care setting (e.g. HIV/AIDS care and treatment). Services and social determinants of health that affect the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and their main risk factors are also being addressed by a "health in all policies" approach. In addition, WHO has helped to strengthen the core competencies required by the International Health Regulations, with a specific emphasis on emergency reporting and response to emerging communicable diseases (Ebola preparedness and Zika virus preparedness and response).